

ALTERNATIVE PLATFORM SAMPLING TRIPS

The Alternative Platform Program utilizes an independent vessel to observe small commercial fishing vessels in coastal gillnet fisheries that cannot accommodate an observer, to augment conventional observer coverage, or when observers are unavailable. When observing fishing activities from the alternative platform, there are differences how the data are collected. The following protocols will apply to all Alternative Platform observations.

- All fields refer to the commercial vessel that you are watching, *i.e.* PORT LANDED, dates, times, EQUIPMENT USED, etc. If these fields are not available, document estimated values in the COMMENTS section whenever possible.
- Gillnet Gear Log: Record gear characteristics **only for gear retrievals that are witnessed**. Do not record gear characteristics for gears that may have been hauled prior to the arrival of the alternative platform vessel. Individual gear characteristics for all gears used may not be available; fill this log out as completely as possible including any combined information in the COMMENTS section.
- Gillnet Haul Log: **If a haul is already in progress** when the alternative platform vessel arrives at the fishing vessel, **do not record any information for this haul**. Wait until the next haul commences to begin collecting data and record this information in COMMENTS; *i.e.* F/V hauled two strings prior to the arrival of the alternative platform vessel, kept about 100 lbs of spanish mackerel.
- **Conduct a Marine Mammal Watch for all hauls**. Only record kept catch information on each haul of the trip. Discard catch may be noted in COMMENTS.
- Vessel & Trip Log: In the NUMBER OF TRIP HAULS and NUMBER OF UNOBSERVED HAULS fields, record **only the number of hauls that you witness from HAUL BEGIN to HAUL END**. Do not include hauls that the fishing vessel completed prior to the arrival of the alternative platform vessel or partially witnessed hauls. For OBSCON reporting, in the PRIMARY and SECONDARY SPECIES WEIGHTS fields, **include total weights only for hauls that were witnessed from HAUL BEGIN to HAUL END**. If possible, obtain the total pounds landed by the fishing vessel at the dock and record them in COMMENTS.